

REMARKS

Applicant has rewritten claims 1 and 8, and cancelled claim 7, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claim 7 was cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer, and claim 8 was made dependent on claim 6.

Claims 1, 4, 6, 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the article Im et al., "Single-crystal Si films for thin-film transistor devices," Applied Physics Letters 70 (25) 23 June 1997, pp. 3434-3436 in view of Higashi, U.S. Patent No. 6,136,632, and Makita, U.S. Patent No. 5,821,562.

Independent claim 1 provides that the substrate having a second-property semiconductor film formed thereon is prepared in a gas atmosphere with a pressure of substantially atmospheric pressure. This amendment is supported in the specification by, for example, page 30, lines 4-22. This feature is nowhere disclosed, taught, or suggested by the applied references.

Although Higashi does disclose laser annealing in inert gas or oxygen, (column 8, lines 6-10), it nowhere teaches that the gas pressure is substantially atmospheric pressure. This value of pressure is important because it allows the adsorption of the substrate by a vacuum chucking function, thereby preventing or minimizing movement or flexure of the substrate, (specification, page 30, lines 13-22).

Claim 7 was cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer, since the Applicant was advised that should claim 6 be found allowable, claim 7 would be objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate thereof, (Office Action, page 6, paragraph 6).

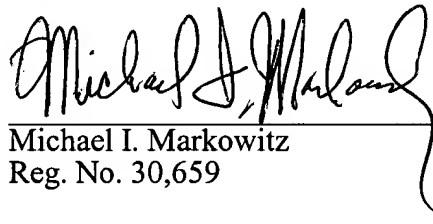
CONCLUSION

An earnest effort has been made to be fully responsive to the Examiner's objections. In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that independent claim 1 is in condition for allowance, as well as the claims dependent therefrom. Passage of this case to allowance is earnestly solicited.

However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper, not fully covered by an enclosed check, may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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